

According to the al-Qaida charter:

There will be continuing enmity until everybody believes in Allah. We will not meet [the enemy] halfway, and there will be no room for dialog with them.

The Iranian President has called for a world "without the United States and Zionism," saying that the West's "doomed destiny will be annihilation, misfortune, and abjectness," and telling other nations that in order to have good relations with Iran, they must "bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender."

Horrendous attacks in India, Madrid, London, as well as recent arrests in Canada, Miami, and the foiled London airplane plot have shown that terrorists and their state sponsors have the determination to back up their rhetoric with action.

President Bush and my Republican colleagues have proved that we understand the nature of the enemy we are facing and that we must be just as determined as they are.

Let's be clear. Republicans are not the ones fighting to preserve the status quo. Preserving the status quo is what we did for 8 long years under the Clinton administration—simply responding with a law enforcement mindset while Islamic extremists attacked us and built and financed their worldwide network of terror.

Now Democrats would have us return to the Clinton status quo—a pre-September 11, head-in-the-sand philosophy of "don't listen, don't track, don't challenge."

Republicans understand the world changed on September 11 and that we are fighting a dynamic and committed enemy. As we have responded to terrorists, they have adjusted their tactics, and we are continually evaluating and adapting our strategy to meet this evolving threat.

If we don't show the resolve to defeat radical Islamic terrorists in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, we will never defeat them anywhere. No one understands the stakes better than the terrorists. That is why there is no in-between choice in Iraq. Either we cut and run and allow it to become a safe haven for terrorism and staging grounds for future attacks or we stay until victory over the terrorists is achieved and Iraq is a stable partner in democracy.

Republicans have proved that we will do what it takes to secure our homeland from all enemies. We are committed to completing our current mission in Iraq and Afghanistan with victory and honor and to create a new generation of freedom and security, of peace and prosperity, for America and the world.

The unfortunate truth is that when it comes to securing America's homeland, the Democrats are dangerously naive. They think if we pull out of Iraq, the terrorists will leave us alone. They have abandoned those in their own party who dare to disagree with the most radical liberals of the far left. Democrats, with the help of their mis-

guided allies, such as media outlets like the New York Times, have signaled to the terrorists that America is tired, discouraged, and ready to quit, encouraging the terrorists to expand their attacks around the world.

Not content to simply heckle from the sidelines, Democrats have actively fought to block the tools that are critical to stopping future attacks. In fact, Senate Democrats united this week in opposition to the terrorist surveillance program, proposing an amendment to the port security bill that denounces this program that has saved American lives.

Just last Thursday, Democrats showed their continued tendency to flip-flop when they issued a media statement outlining their latest security agenda, pledging to "work to . . . ensure our intelligence agencies have the tools they need to defeat the terrorists." Then, 1 short hour later, they again played procedural games to block the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the National Security Surveillance Act of 2006.

The Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, got it right when he said:

It's little wonder that Democrats have a credibility gap with the American people on the issue of national security. Saying one thing [and then] doing another . . . doesn't help our efforts to win this war.

This week, Senate Democrats continued to prove they are willing to put politics ahead of the security and safety of American families by trying to kill the port security bill with partisan amendments.

The Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, openly admitted the Democratic strategy of playing politics with national security. Yesterday, Congress Daily reported Senator SCHUMER "conceded Democrats were seeking to score political points" and quoted my Democratic colleague saying: "This is politics at its very best."

I believe the American people have a different view of the partisan games the Senate Democrats are playing. I think they believe that this is politics at its very worst.

If Democrats spent half as much time fighting terrorists as they do this administration, America would win this war a lot faster.

Democrats claim to be the ones listening to the American people, but, unfortunately, they are just posturing to win an election. Mr. President, I invite my Democratic colleagues to stop these political games and to join us in helping to win this war on terror and securing America's homeland.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, how much time remains on our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 4 minutes 25 seconds remaining.

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes on each side for morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I didn't hear the request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has asked unanimous consent that each side have 5 additional minutes for morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I have no objection.

AMERICA'S STATUS IN FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about our status in this fight against Islamic extremism around the world.

When the terrorists struck the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, America was forced to realize that we were at war. We did not ask for this war. This conflict was brought to us by individuals who believe that America is evil. This is an enemy that hates us because we are a free nation, and our citizens are free to pursue their dreams and chart their own destiny.

The day the World Trade Center towers fell, our world—or at least our comprehension of it—changed forever. Our enemy stepped onto our soil, destroyed our buildings, killed more than 3,000 of our citizens, and made clear their intentions. They want nothing less than to cause our demise.

The world has changed much since that horrific day. Unfortunately, the will to fight extremists who planned and executed September 11, and many other attacks around the globe, has wavered since then. The united resolve of many nations has softened dramatically.

As Americans, we have no choice but to lead the way with an unwavering commitment to this fight. Remember, they asked for this fight. They, long ago, declared war on America and the free world and long before September 11 began attacking and killing our citizens.

They challenged us many times over the years and received little more than empty rhetoric and a slap on the wrist for such atrocities as striking the USS Cole, the first World Trade Center bombings, destruction of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and the Marine barracks in Lebanon; and, of course, they attacked our Embassies in Africa.

We were at war, but we didn't even know it. For too long we ignored the words of these terrorists. We attributed their declarations of hate as mere rantings of lunatics.

Time has shown us that the words of these Islamic extremists must be taken seriously, and we must continue to act decisively to stop them from achieving their aims.

In an effort to steal our collective resolve, it is important to remind ourselves just who the enemy really is in this global war against Islamic fascism. For too long America has seen our enemies through a prism that casts them in the mold of conventional powers, but the Islamic fascists are a different breed. They fight for no flag, nor

do they adhere to any international agreement. They fight outside the box; whereas, our sense of what is right and wrong constrains us to adhere to recognized rules of engagement.

We all know the self-professed leader of al-Qaida is Osama bin Laden. His call to arms for his disciples is: Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers amongst us.

We know Iraq is central to the war on terror because Osama bin Laden said it is. He said:

The most serious issue today for the whole world is this third world war that is raging in Iraq.

Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, described Iraq as "the place for the greatest battle of Islam in this era."

Remember the blind sheikh? He was responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. From his prison cell, he has called on Muslims everywhere to "tear them apart, ruin their economy, instigate against their corporations, destroy their embassies, attack their interests, sink their ships, and shoot down their airplanes; kill them on land, at sea, in the air; kill them wherever you find them."

Those were their words, Mr. President. We are at war with an enemy that wants to see America wiped off the map. This is an enemy bent on destruction and Islamic domination—or at least their vision of Islam. Their goal is to establish a violent political utopia across the Middle East—which they call a caliphate—where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology.

Osama bin Laden has called the 9/11 attacks, in his words, "a great step toward the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous caliphate." There are reports that some of Osama bin Laden's supporters believe that he is the Mahdi, the 12th Imam. The Mahdi will lead believers in Islam to victory over the infidels, ushering in an era of peace and justice.

Even Iran's President is on record as instructing America, in his words:

If you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will force you to surrender and bow down.

Those are the Iranian President's own words. It is not farfetched to believe that with nuclear weapons in his possession, he would use them to usher in this cataclysmic confrontation that he seeks. We must take these threats seriously and act accordingly.

Remember, the terrorists are traitors to their own faith trying, in effect, to hijack Islam itself. The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.

The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans, and make no distinction among military leaders, ordi-

nary troops, and civilians, including women and children. They want to overthrow existing governments in many Muslim countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They want to drive Israel out of the Middle East. They want to drive Christians and Jews out of vast regions of Asia and Africa. These terrorists kill not merely to end lives but to disrupt and end a way of life. With every atrocity, they hope that America grows fearful, retreating from the world and forsaking our friends. They stand against us because we stand in their way.

We cannot be deceived by their pretenses to piety. We have seen their kind before. They are the heirs of all the murderous ideologies of the 20th century.

By sacrificing human life to serve their radical visions, by abandoning every value except power, they follow the path of fascism and Nazism and totalitarianism. They will follow that path all the way to where it ends: In history's unmarked graves of discarded lies.

This is not, however, just America's fight. And what is at stake is not just America's freedom. This is the world's fight. This is civilization's fight. This is the fight for all who believe in progress and pluralism, tolerance, and freedom.

The war we fight today is more than a military conflict; it is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. Make no mistake: this is an enemy we cannot appease; this is an enemy we must defeat.

On September 11, 2001, and the days immediately following, this country stood united. We stood ready to protect all Americans. We must continue to show a united front against this enemy. We must understand that what we say has great consequences. If our enemy sees the country divided, it will also see an opportunity and a path to victory.

During our Civil War, General Lee often read northern papers to gauge the mood of the population in the North. As he saw the political discourse and the division among northern leaders prior to Gettysburg, he believed that it would take only one more victory to win the war. Lucky for us, the victory never came, but we can learn from Lee's lesson.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 more seconds.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, al-Qaida reads our newspapers and watches our television stations. They see the lack of resolve in some of our leaders and they seek to exploit it. This is the time to lead, a time to unite, and a time to defeat an enemy that wants to bring an end to freedom around the world. We must lay down our party labels as Republicans, Democrats, or Independents and become Americans. We must not tire. We must not falter. We cannot fail.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

OSAMA BIN LADEN STILL LOOSE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I came to the floor to speak briefly about one of our outstanding superintendents in Louisiana and to pay tribute to an accomplishment that has been made on education. But in light of the rantings that went on for the last 30 minutes in the Chamber from my two colleagues on the other side, I would like to state for the RECORD that America is not tired of fighting terrorism. America is tired of the wrong-headed and bone-headed leadership of the Republican Party that has sent \$6.5 billion a month to Iraq, when the front line was Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. America is tired of leadership which led this country to attack Saddam Hussein when we were attacked by Osama bin Laden, and which captured a man who did not attack the country and left loose a man who did.

Americans are tired of bone-headed Republican leadership that alienates our allies when we need them the most. And Americans are most certainly tired of leadership that, despite documented mistake after mistake after mistake—and even their own party admitting mistakes—never admits that they do anything wrong. That is the kind of leadership Americans are tired of.

I didn't come to the Senate to have partisan rantings on the floor, but I most certainly am not going to sit here as a Democrat and let the Republican leadership come to the floor and talk about how Democrats are not making us safe. They are the ones who are in charge, and Osama bin Laden is still loose.

RECOGNIZING LOUISIANA'S MADISON PARISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, now I will speak about what I came to the floor to speak about. We have had a very difficult time in Louisiana and Mississippi and the gulf coast this year, in part because our resources are short because our country is involved in so many other things, and I can appreciate and understand the dilemmas. But we still have a great effort underway to rebuild Louisiana, Mississippi, and the gulf coast. So we have been moving steadily ahead in fits and starts because, of course, this was an unprecedented disaster. And while it really wasn't a natural disaster for Louisiana, it was a manmade disaster because our city went under water and the region, counties in Mississippi and parishes in Louisiana—for instance, one of our parishes, not New Orleans which we have heard a lot about, but St. Bernard Parish which sits right outside of New Orleans, 75,000 people live there, and every home was destroyed and every church was ruined